

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

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R 071645Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3468

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS CASABLANCA 0338

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, MO

SUBJ: FY 1975 GRANT ASSISTANCE TO CASABLANCA BRANCH SCHOOL

FOR A/OS FROM BRUBECK

REF: STATE 100073

1. SCHOOL BOARD AND I VERY APPRECIATIVE REFERENCE
THOUGHTFUL AND HELPFUL REPLY, AS RESULT OF WHICH WE ARE
TAKING TWO STEPS WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL EASE, BUT NOT
ALTOGETHER RESOLVE, BUDGETARY CRISIS FACING BRANCH
SCHOOL.

2. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFERENCE, SCHOOL BOARD HAD ALREADY
DECIDED TO RAISE TUITION FOR COMING YEAR: IT HAS NOW BEEN
DECIDED TO INCREASE THIS RAISE SUBSTANTIALLY, SO THAT
BEGINNING WITH FALL TERM THIS YEAR, BRANCH SCHOOL TUITION
WILL BE \$1500 PER YEAR. SECONDLY AND EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY,
SCHOOL HAS INSTITUTED POLICY OF OFFERING NO REFUNDS WHEN
STUDENTS ARE WITHDRAWN DURING SCHOOL TERM. BOTH THESE
STEPS ANNOUNCED TO PARENTS MEETING MAY 6.

3. WHILE THESE STEPS ADMITTEDLY BOTH SIMPLE AND OBVIOUS,
SCHOOL BOARD HAD AVOIDED TAKING THEM UNTIL NOW BECAUSE
OF THEIR (AND MY) CONVICTION THAT FOR SCHOOL TO BECOME
FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT INTITUTION, IT HAD TO WIDEN ITS
APPEAL CONSIDERABLY BEYOND ITS PRESENT PARAMETERS. WE WERE
CONCERNED THAT TOO STIFF A TARIFF - PARTICULARLY IN SCHOOL'S
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FOUNDING STAGES - MIGHT LIMIT ITS ATTRACTIVENESS SOLELY TO

THOSE PARENTS WHOSE EMPLOYERS WERE WILLING TO PAY TUITION. THIS SITUATION IN TURN WOULD CONDEMN SCHOOL FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO DRAW ITS STUDENTS FROM CONSTANTLY SHIFTING EXPATRIATE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. WITH NO ROOTS IN MOROCCAN COMMUNITY, IT COULD WELL REQUIRE SPOON FEEDING FAR LONGER THAN EITHER DEPARTMENT OR WE WOULD CARE TO CONTEMPLATE.

4. IN ANY EVENTS, PRESENT FINANCIAL EXIGENCIES MUST OUTWEIGH LONGER-TERM ASPIRATIONS, AND THUS WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS NOTED ABOVE. AT SAME TIME, SCHOOL BOARD WILL EXPAND ITS PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS TO ATTRACT MORE STUDENTS, AND WILL AS IN PAST BE ABLE TO USE AS EFFECTIVE TALKING POINT IN FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FACT THAT DEPARTMENT IS PROVIDING SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL. WITH ALL THIS SAID, HOWEVER, SIZEABLE SHORTFALL WILL REMAIN IN BRACNCH SCHOOL BUDGET FOR COMING YEAR. THUS WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT IN SPIRIT OF PARAGRAPH FIVE OF REFERENCE, DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE AUGMENT ITS PROGRAMMED FY 1975 GRANT ASSISTANCE TO CASABLANCA BRANCH SCHOOL. DETAILED BUDGET WILL BE SUBMITTED UPON RECEIPT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. BRUBECK

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